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Letter dated 19 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It gives me great pleasure to enclose herewith for your information, and through you to members of the Security Council, the agreed outcomes of the Tripartite Committee meeting, comprising the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, held in Khartoum on 18 February 2009 (see annex). The outcomes demonstrate the strong commitment of the Government of the Sudan to the full deployment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem **Mohamad**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 February 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Government of Sudan, African Union and United Nations Tripartite Committee on UNAMID

18 February 2009
Khartoum

Agreed Outcomes

1. On 18 February 2009 representatives from the Government of Sudan (GoS), the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN) and the African Union, United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) met in Khartoum to conduct the fourth Tripartite Coordination Mechanism meeting on UNAMID. The meeting focused on issues needing further attention and follow-up relating to the UNAMID deployment as well as a review of the current political and security developments in the context of Darfur.

2. The Government of Sudan included representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense, National Security, Civil Aviation and was led by Dr. Mutrif Siddiq, Under Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The African Union Commission delegation was led by Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, and included the Head of the African Union Liaison Office and officials of the Commission. The United Nations Delegation was led by Under Secretary General for Field Support, Ms. Susana Malcorra. The UNAMID delegation led by the AU/ UN Joint Special Representative Mr. Rodolphe Adada accompanied by the Deputy Joint Special Representative for Operations and Management, the Force Commander and the Police Commissioner.

3. The Government of Sudan briefed on the outcome of the Doha talks. While expressing satisfaction with the preliminary results which has opened the way for discussions, the Government noted the wish for the parties to commit to a fixed time-frame and concrete steps to improve security in Darfur. Commissioner Lamamra noted that the situation on the ground should develop more positively to send the right signals. He called for a time of healing, appeasement and reconciliation, and urged all parties to set right example to avoid escalation on the ground.

4. In a positive atmosphere of cooperation and understanding, the Government of Sudan has reiterated its full commitment and obligations according to the SOFA to protect UNAMID personnel and facilities. Within this context, UNAMID requested the Government of Sudan to actively reflect the positive and close cooperative relationship between UNAMID and the Government of Sudan in the public discourse and in local media, to offset any negative effects of the dissemination of inaccurate information. Commissioner Lamamra praised the Government of Sudan for its continued commitment and support for UNAMID.

He further underscored the importance of GoS continued protection of UNAMID staff and premises under all circumstances.

5. The Government of Sudan also briefed on the situation in Muhajeria of February 2009. In this context, UNAMID expressed its gratitude for the close communication that existed during the crisis, calling on all parties to avoid situations leading to this level of escalation.

6. Noting that the majority of issues were discussed and agreements reached on 15 February 2009 during the Bilateral Technical Meeting between UNAMID and GoS, the current meeting focused on the following issues:

   a. Air operations:
      i. UNAMID has requested the Government of Sudan to exert additional efforts in distinctly marking Government planes operating in the Darfur area. The GoS reiterated its commitment to ensure that instructions are resent to Civil Aviation Authorities to adhere to the ban on utilizing white aircrafts in the Darfur area. Technical issues in this regard should be raised with UNAMID.
      ii. Upgrading and classification of El-Geneina Airport: UNAMID called upon continued collaboration with the Government of Sudan to expedite the actions necessary for the SCAA classification of the airport.
      iii. Ethiopian Helicopters: USG Malcorra requested the continued cooperation of the Government to expedite the allocation of the land for parking these helicopters as soon as the additional requirements are provided by UNAMID. The GoS reiterated that this issue is linked with the upgrading and classification of the airport as the land is already allocated.

   b. Visas: The United Nations reiterated the need for the Government of Sudan to continue the expedited issuance of visas regardless of nationalities. The Government of Sudan recalled the need to maintain the predominantly African character of the Mission and recognized certain concerns to be discussed among AU Commissioner Lamamra, USG Malcorra, JSR Adada and Dr. Mutriff Siddiq.
   c. Claims: UNAMID has agreed to revisit claims on monthly basis to ensure that these have been properly as requested by the Government of Sudan.
   d. Railways: The Government of Sudan requested the United Nations to consider providing additional financial support for the railways (Al-Ruhud – Nyala Line). USG Malcorra concurred that the current level of commitment with the regards to the rehabilitation of the railways falls below expectations. Noting that the requirement is beyond the capacity of the UNAMID budget, UN officials agreed to request further budgetary and bilateral support, underscoring the central nature of the development

of the railways for the deployment of the Mission and the benefit of the people of Darfur.

e. Police: While the Government of Sudan has expressed its satisfaction with the Police training programmes, the issue of the provision by UNAMID of cars and maintenance remain of concern. In response UNAMID expressed its appreciation for the support provided by the GoS for the security of UNAMID super camps and premises in Nyala and for the ongoing arrangements to do the same for El-Fasher. Furthermore, UNAMID agreed to provide maintenance service for the police vehicles made available for the police during convoy protection. Further assistance in offering additional vehicles will be considered.

7. In conclusion, the GoS, AU and UN expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved through the tri-partite mechanism and resolved to hold its meeting in El-Fasher on 31 March 2009.

(*Signed*) Dr. Mutrif **Siddiq**
For the Government of Sudan

(*Signed*) Ramtane **Lamamra**
For the African Union
Commissioner

(*Signed*) Ms. Susana **Malcorra**
For the United Nations